

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /172 W

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P 202012Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2786

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OCON VE

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS DEPICTING ATMOSPHERE OF U.S.-VENEZUELAN
CONFRONTATION

1. CARACAS PRESS FEBRUARY 20 REPORTS MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDRO-CARBONS PEREZ LA SALVIA AS WARNING THAT AT THE MEXICO CITY MFMM THE U.S. MAY ATTEMPT TO DEPICT VENEZUELA AS THE EXPLOITER OF ITS ENERGY-SHORT LATIN NEIGHBORS AND AS EXPRESSING SURPRISE OVER WHAT HE TERMED AS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STANCE AS "DEFENDER OF THE POOR COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD." TODAY'S CARACAS PRESS ALSO CARRIES WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM MEXICO CITY QUOTING FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI AS HAVING STATED THERE THAT VENEZUELA'S REACTION TO ECONOMIC THREATS FROM THE U.S. MIGHT BE TO NATIONALIZE VENEZUELA'S OIL "TO MAKE THOSE THREATS LESS THREATENING," AND THAT THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS WOULD CONSIDER A LAW TO NATIONALIZE IMMEDIATELY INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL 1983. (ON FEBRUARY 19 THE COPEI PARTY DELIVERED AN OIL NATIONALIZATION BILL TO PRESIDENT CALDERA, AS REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

2. THESE UNHELPFUL STATEMENTS BY LEADING GOV OFFICIALS JUST AS THE
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MEXICO CITY MEETING IS GETTING STARTED APPEAR AT THE SAME TIME THE

CARACAS PRESS FEBRUARY 20 GIVES HEAVY PLAY TO REPORTS THAT REPRESENTATIVE BILL GUNTER HAS URGED SUSPENSION BY THE U.S. OF VENEZUELA'S SUGAR QUOTA IN RETALIATION AGAINST THE GOV'S PETROLEUM POLICY.

3. COMMENT: CALVANI AND PEREZ LA SALVIA ARE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM THE OUTGOING COPEI PARTY TO MAKE NATIONALISTIC PUBLIC UTTERANCES TO FURTHER COPEI'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL AIMS, AND THEIR ROLE HAS BEEN MADE MUCH EASIER BY RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF OPINION ON VENEZUELA'S OIL POLICIES BY U.S. CONGRESSMEN.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA01566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaauni.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCAL PRESS DEPICTING ATMOSPHERE OF U.S.-VENEZUELAN CONFRONTATION
TAGS: OCON, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005